

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-22, 24-26, and 28-32, 34, and 36-41 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 9, and 17 are independent. Claims 23, 27, 33, and 35 have been canceled and claims 36-41 are new. No new matter has been introduced by way of the foregoing amendment, and support for all claim changes and additions can be found throughout the originally-filed application.

Interview Summary

On behalf of the Applicant, the undersigned wishes to express appreciation to Examiner Mark Fadok for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on December 19, 2007. During the interview, the general differences between the art cited and the subject matter of this application were discussed. Potential amendments to the claims were also discussed.

Claims 1-22, 24-26, and 28-32, 34, and 36-41 are Allowable Over Bellini and Combinations Thereof

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,974,395 to Bellini et al. (hereinafter "Bellini") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0225637 by Pemberton et al. (hereinafter "Pemberton"), and in further view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0116346 by Blankenstein et al. (hereinafter "Blankenstein") and U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0088422 by Flynn et al. (hereinafter "Flynn"). Claims 8, 16 and 18-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bellini in view of Pemberton, and further in view of Official Notice. Of these rejected claims, the only rejected independent claims are 1, 9, and 17. Claims 23, 27, 33, and 35 have been canceled, and thus, the rejections of these claims have been rendered moot. The remaining pending claims are patentable for at least the reasons discussed below.

The independent claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended to include recitations related to rejections of supply orders. Claim 17 further includes a recitation related to

product-specific rejection of a supply order. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites “receiving an indicator that the order for the second portion of the plurality of supplies has been rejected by the second supplier,” and independent claim 9 recites a “manufacturing interface module configured to receive an indicator that the order for the plurality of supplies has been rejected by the supplier.” Independent claim 17 recites a “computer-readable program means for receiving from the supplier a first indicator that a portion of the order associated with the first product has been rejected and a second indicator that a portion of the order associated with the second product has been accepted.” Support for these amendments is included at least at paragraph [0036] of the originally-filed application.

Bellini, Pemberton, Flynn and Blankenstein are silent with respect to at least these aspects recited in the independent claims. Bellini and Pemberton discuss planning associated with supply chains but do not disclose or suggest rejection of supply orders. Flynn and Blankenstein focus on computer-based communications and, in fact, are entirely silent with respect to supply chain planning. In addition, the Official Notice fails to cure the deficiencies of Bellini, Pemberton, Flynn and Blankenstein with respect to the amendments included in independent claims 1, 9, and 17.

For at least the reasons stated above, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 are allowable over Bellini, and combinations thereof. Based at least on their dependence upon the independent claims, the various dependent claims are also allowable. New claims 36-41 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from independent claims.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding rejections and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of the Amendments to the claims, title, and specification are respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.


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Respectfully submitted,
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